

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ALGIER 00536 121000Z

13

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-03 NEA-06 EA-13 DRC-01 EB-03

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FM USINT ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0228

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S E C R E T ALGIERS 0536

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AG, US

SUBJ: BOUMEDIENE'S RETURN FROM FAR EAST AND U.S.

TRAVEL PLANS

1. PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE AND PARTY RETURNED TO ALGIERS MARCH 9 FROM TRIP TO LAHORE, PEKING, P'YONGYANG, HANOI AND EN ROUTE STOPS AT DACCA AND KUWAIT. WHEN I SAW DEPSEC GEN PRESIDENCY HAMDANI MARCH 10 HE ADMITTED THAT ALL WERE TIRED AND SHAKEN BY PLANE ACCIDENT IN HANOI WHICH TOOK LIVES OF 15 ALGERIAN JOURNALISTS. ACCIDENT OCCURRED WHEN VIETNAMESE PLANE CARRYING JOURNALISTS FROM HANOI AIRPORT TO LARGER JET AIRPORT CRASHED ON LANDING IN HEAVY WEATHER. BOUMEDIENE AND OFFICIAL PARTY HAD GONE BY CAR.

2. HAMDANI SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED BY NORTH KOREA WHERE ORGANIZATION, ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND APPARENT DEVOTION TO KIM IL-SONG WERE BEYOND HIS EXPECTATIONS. BY CONTRAST NORTH VIETNAMESE WERE "MORE RELAXED AND LIKE US". IN DACCA ALGERIANS HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY WHAT FOR SOME OF THEM WAS FIRST SIGHT OF MASS POVERTY. MUJIBUR RAHMAN HAD CONVINCED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ALGIER 00536 121000Z

ALGERIANS OF HIS DESIRE PURSUE COURSE INDEPENDENT

OF POWERFUL NEIGHBORS AND HAD MENTIONED US AID IN THIS RESPECT.

3. IF HAMDANI WAS TYPICAL OF ALGERIAN EASTERN TRAVELLERS THEY WERE NOT, IN SPITE OF MILITANT COMMUNIQUE ALONG THE WAY, ENTIRELY WON OVER BY THEIR HOSTS. IN FACT HAMDANI NOW SEEMS TO BE LOOKING FORWARD WITH ANTICIPATION TO WESTERN TRIP TO NEW YORK FOR UNGA.

4. HAMDANI SAID AS FAR AS HE KNOWS BOUMEDIENE INTENDS TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE NEW YORK, AND IF POSSIBLE MEET WITH PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY, FOLLOWING HIS SPEECH ON BEHALF OF NON-ALIGNED AT SPECIAL UNGA SESSION. I URGED HIM TO GIVE US DETAILS OF BOUMEDIENE'S DESIRES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND HE PROMISED TO TRY TO HAVE SOMETHING LATER THIS WEEK. WHEN I MENTIONED CONCERN IN FOREIGN MINISTRY OVER WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE HE INDICATED THIS WOULD HAVE LITTLE OR NO EFFECT ON BOUMEDIENE'S PLANS.

5. BECAUSE OF HEAVY SCHEDULE, INCLUDING NON-ALIGNED BUREAU FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN ALGIERS MARCH 19, BOUMEDIENE HAS POSTPONED HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO SENEGAL WHICH HAD BEEN SET FOR MARCH 21.
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